

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 /078 W
----- 079683

R 240843Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9022

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: ROK UNIFICATION MINISTER ON FUTURE OF UNC

1. IN TESTIMONY MARCH 15 BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, ROK MINISTER OF
NATIONAL UNIFICATION SIN TO-SONG SAID THAT ROKG IS
CAREFULLY CONSIDERING FOUR ALTERNATIVES TO UNC:

A. DEPLOYMENT ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE FORCE IN DMZ.

B. UN RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ORGANIZATION TO REPLACE MILITARY
ARMISTICE COMMISSION.

C. DECLARATION SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF ARMISTICE
AGREEMENT EVEN WITHOUT UNC.

D. CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT DIRECTLY BETWEEN NORTH
AND SOUTH KOREA.

ACCORDING TO ROK PRESS, SIN WOULD NOT ELABORATE ON THESE
ALTERNATIVES.

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2. ROK PRESS SHOWED INTEREST IN SIN'S TESTIMONY.

OFFICIAL SEOUL SHINMUN MARCH 19 EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT ROKG IS WORKING ON ALTERNATIVES TO UNC, NOTING THAT PRESIDENT PARK IN NEW YEAR'S PRESS CONFERENCE HAD SAID ROKG WOULD NOT BE OPPOSED TO UNC DISSOLUTION IF MEASURES WORKED OUT TO MAINTAIN ARMISTICE EFFECTIVELY. PAPER SAID ROKG CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES CAN BE VIEWED AS INITIATIVE IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT FALL'S UNGA. TONGA ILBO ALSO WELCOMED SIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT EDITORIALY, WHILE NOTING THAT MERE DECLARATION CONTINUING ARMISTICE WOULD NOT STOP NORTH KOREAN INVASION. BOTH PAPERS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE SPECIFICALLY CONSISTING OF MAJOR POWERS CONCERNED, I.E., U.S. (WHOSE FORCES ALREADY HERE SHOULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN), USSR, PRC, AND JAPAN.

3. COMMENT: SIN IS UNASSUMING FORMER ACADEMIC HEADING LARGELY UNINFLUENTIAL NATIONAL UNIFICATION BOARD, WHICH ENGAGES IN STUDIES OF UNIFICATION SCENARIOS NOT NECESSARILY RELATED TO POLICY DECISIONS. HOWEVER, HIS COMMENTS SOMETIMES GET A GOOD PRESS. IN THIS CASE, PRESS HAS TIED HIS TESTIMONY TO CURRENT POPULAR HOPE THAT GREAT POWER INVOLVEMENT WILL SOLVE KOREAN PROBLEM.
ERICSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, ARMISTICE, AGREEMENTS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL01958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750102-1067
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750321/aaaaatfh.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK UNIFICATION MINISTER ON FUTURE OF UNC
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, UNC, (SIN TO-SONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006